



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Sacramento Area Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

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IN REPLY REFER TO

Tribal Operations
BCCO - 705h

APR 20 1977

Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

Reference is made to your letter of March 10 in behalf of a constituent requesting information on the Tejon Indians in Kern County, California.

In connection with the inquiry about the El Tejon Ranch the following is submitted:

Approximately 880 acres of public domain lands in Kern County, California were reserved and set aside by Departmental order of November 9, 1916, for the use of the El Tejon Band of Indians. An investigation disclosed that these Indians had never made use of the lands and could not use them because it was not economically feasible to do so. Accordingly, the Departmental order of November 9, was revoked in 1962 by Public Land Order 2738, and the lands were restored to the public domain.

There were some Indian families living on the El Tejon Ranch which was part of an old original Mexican Grant. These Indian families claimed undisputed title to the Mexican Grant. The United States brought suit in behalf of these Indians to have confirmed in them "perpetual right" to occupy and use a part of the Mexican Grant. However, the United States Supreme Court, on June 9, 1924, held that title to the land occupied by these Indians was in the Title Insurance and Trust Company et al., and that the Tejon Indians had no legal right or interest in and to the portion of the El Tejon Ranch on which they were residing. However, the Tejon Indians were permitted by the ranch owners to remain on the lands occupied by them on a nominal rental basis.

The Indians of the Tejon Ranch are considered to be of the Yokut Tribe.

We have no information in our records on a Mr. Beal or Mr. Bake.

We are sorry that we could not offer more information on this subject.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) William E. Finale

Area Director

cc: Bureau of Indian Affairs
Office of Controlled Correspondence
BCCO 7054

FLHaggerty: brg 4/19/77

cc: Central California Agency
BCCO 7054

✓ 1960 - Tejon Ranch

RECEIVED



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Real Prop. Mgmt.
Acq. & Disp.
BCCO 9611

Hon. George Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

MAY 21 1969

Dear Senator Murphy:

We have been asked by Secretary Mickel to furnish the information requested in your letter of May 7.

The first situation mentioned by your constituent refers to a lease of approximately 7800 acres of tribal land on the California side of the Colorado River Reservation to the Colorado River Company, a Limited Partnership, who is subdividing and subleasing lots for residential, recreational and associated commercial purposes. The lots are being offered under subleases, and such are not to be construed as a sale of Indian trust or restricted lands. The sublessee is acquiring a subleasehold interest, and the Indian owner does not stand to lose title.

Concerning the status of Indians on the El Tejon Ranch, approximately 880 acres of public domain lands in Kern County, California, were reserved and set aside by Departmental order of November 9, 1916, for the use of the El Tejon Band of Indians. An investigation disclosed that these Indians had never made use of the lands and could not use them because it was not economically feasible to do so. Accordingly, the Departmental order of November 9 was revoked in 1962 by Public Land Order 2738, and the lands were restored to the public domain.

There are no Indians living on or directly adjacent to these lands. However, three Indian families are living on the El Tejon Ranch which is a part of an old original Mexican Grant. These Indian families claim undisputed title to the Mexican Grant. The United States brought suit in behalf of these Indians to have confirmed in them a "perpetual right" to occupy and use a part of the

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Mexican Grant. However, the United States Supreme Court, on June 9, 1924, held that title to the land occupied by these Indians was in the Title Insurance and Trust Company, et al., and that the Tejon Indians had no legal right or interest in and to the portion of the El Tejon Ranch on which they were residing. (United States of America, Appellant, v. Title Insurance and Trust Company, et al., 265 U.S. 472.) However, the Tejon Indians are permitted by the ranch owners to remain on the lands occupied by them on a nominal rental basis.

We appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) T. W. Taylor
Acting Commissioner

cc:
Area Director, Sacramento (for info)

